AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace paragraph [0010] with the following new paragraph:

[0010] The invention is based on the basic idea of integrating radiopaque material as an X-ray marker for a stent into the carrier structure of the stent in such a way that the outwardly acting surface of the stent in the region of the X-ray marker is not characterized by the radiopaque material but by another metal or a metal compound. The metal of the cover layer of the marker element advantageously makes it possible for the marker element to be welded to the rest of the carrier structure after it has been cut out. The outwardly acting surface of the X-ray marker in that case can be for example of a body-compatible nature by virtue of a silicon ~~carbite~~ carbide coating. In a particularly advantageous variant, the metal forming the cover layer is identical to the metal of the carrier structure and can therefore be easily connected to the rest of the carrier structure by welding without contact corrosion or the like occurring.

Replace paragraph [0025] with the following new paragraph:

[0025] As can be seen from the cross-section through an X-ray marker 22 and 22' respectively in Fig. 3, it is formed by a wire 30 which, in its interior, includes a core 32 of X-ray-opaque material such as for example gold, platinum or palladium. That core 32 is completely enclosed by carrier material 34. In that respect, the carrier material 34 corresponds to the metallic material from which the rest of the stent 10 is produced. A preferred carrier material is nitinol, a titanium nickel alloy, which is also referred to as a shape memory metal. The advantage of such an X-ray marker is that it can be readily joined to the rest of the carrier structure of a stent, for example by welding, without the per se known problems such as transition or contact corrosion occurring. That is of great significance, in particular in the case of self-expanding stents comprising a shape memory metal such as nitinol.